

## PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2008

Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446 Email: <u>bvelickovska@usaid.gov</u>

## USAID invests in the renovation of the Faik Konica primary school in Zajas

USAID, as a part of the U.S. mission in Macedonia, is investing in educational development and school renovations throughout the country. In 'Faik Konica' Primary School, Zajas, USAID funded the replacement of the school roof. This was achieved through a partnership between USAID's Primary Education Project, the municipality and the school community. The completion of the renovation was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"By renovating this school we created a better and safer learning environment. We also increased the energy efficiency of this school so that the municipality will save money...money it can invest back into educational quality," said Dwaine Lee, Director of USAID's Democracy, Governance and Education Office.

The renovation component of the USAID Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase the access and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase employment skills of students. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

## NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <a href="http://macedonia.usaid.gov">http://macedonia.usaid.gov</a>.